

BOOK REVIEWS

Diagnostic Technic. By Prof. Dr. Julius Schwalbe. 851 pp. Illustrated. Leipzig: Verlag von George Thieme. 1923.

The general practitioner will welcome heartily the "Diagnostic Technic" of Schwalbe. This book, as well as his "Therapeutic Technic," was written for the special use of the general practitioner. Some of the foremost German scientists collaborated in outlining the modern diagnostic methods of all branches of medicine, and for this reason "Diagnostic Technic" represents a valuable contribution for the understanding of diagnostic possibilities to the general practitioner.

Modern methods of laboratory work are described in detail. Not only does the book treat the subject of secretion and excretion examinations, but also do the authors explain the finer function tests of the different organs (liver, spleen, kidneys, endocrine system, etc.) and methods of bacteriological and serological examinations.

The book contains many photographs and illustrations, valuable for the understanding of the various articles. Schwalbe's "Diagnostic Technic" is recommended to everyone who is desirous of obtaining the latest contribution to medical diagnosis, and especially for the doctor in the country who has to work without the help of a specialist.

A. S.

Improved Methods in Hospital Management: A Treatise on the Introduction of Business Methods in the Management of Modern Hospitals. By G. W. Curtis, Superintendent of Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital, Santa Barbara, California. Hospital Service Exchange, Distributors, Santa Barbara, California, 1924. Published September, 1924, The Schauer Printing Studio, Inc., Santa Barbara.

Of the score or more books on hospital management, the attractive little volume of G. W. Curtis is the best. It is the only book that covers its subject fully in a simple straightforward manner, easily understood, and easily carried out.

No hospital worthy of the name can do less than what Curtis includes in his book, and to do more, except in vast complicated organizations, is a useless luxury.

The system so well outlined in this book is, and has been employed in California hospitals for a good many years. Many of them follow the practices laid down here almost exactly and scores of others at least base their work upon the principles contained in this book.

Every hospital and every person connected with hospital management will be able to meet his problems more intelligently and more economically by adopting Curtis' book as a text-book of procedure. In producing this book, Mr. Curtis has rendered a service to the cause of better hospitals and better medicine that ought to prove epochal in its influence.

In the mechanical work of producing the book the publishers are to be complimented.

Modern Aspects of the Circulation in Health and Disease. By Carl J. Wiggers. 2nd ed. 662 pp. Illustrated. Philadelphia and New York: Lea & Febiger. 1923. Price, \$7.50.

This book should be in the hands of every student of cardiology. It gives one an insight into the problems of physiology, pathology, and the dynamics of the cardiovascular system. The limited space makes it nearly impossible to give this book an adequate review.

The problems which are offered for study are intricate, but the author has not hesitated to oppose certain nearly orthodox principles by his own beliefs, these beliefs frequently backed by experimental evidence.

At present there is some expectancy among teachers and clinicians as to the value of sound recording and intensifying devices as a means of study of abnormal cardiac sounds. Wiggers almost anticipates the claims which are to be made in that field. He shows that their principal value will be in accurately fixing the time in the cardiac

cycle when these abnormal sounds occur, it being nearly impossible for the ear to time these sounds properly when the heart is rapid or irregular.

Wiggers goes into detail on the long-disputed question as to the value of judging the efficiency and power of the heart by the intensity of its sounds, first explaining the Lewis theory that high arterial pressure is not a cause of the accentuation of the second sound. Lewis based this on experimentation in which he increased arterial pressure by aortic compression. Wiggers disputes this and offers his own experiments as evidence that the vibration comprising both first and second sounds increased not only in amplitude, but in the number of vibration when the ventricles increased in vigor and the blood pressure was simultaneously raised. The author also made a searching investigation as to the significance of accentuated and enfeebled heart sounds by experimentally modifying conditions in the circulation: First, slowing the heart with consequent fall in both systolic and pulmonic pressure; result reduced intensity of both heart sounds; second, increasing the total resistance in the systemic circuit and thereby elevating arterial pressure; result accentuation of both sounds; third, increasing the systolic discharge and work of the ventricles; result increase of both heart sounds.

The results of the above experiments show that the relative intensity of the first sound may be used as a clinical index of the vigor with which the ventricle contraction is carried out.

The book is full of details of carefully performed experiments by a real scientist. The book should be studied; it does not miss it.

H. S.

The Science and Art of Anesthesia. By Colonel William Webster. 214 pp. Illustrated. St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Company. 1924. Price, \$4.75.

"The Science and Art of Anesthesia," the latest of the contributions to the literature of anesthesiology, presents an excellent shorter manual for the use of students and practitioners. Dr. Webster's activities in the fields of physiology, pharmacology, and pathology especially fit him for this work. It gives in its 206 pages a remarkably comprehensive summary of the scientific discoveries in anesthetics to date, and their practical application in surgery. In the pages devoted to what he terms the art of anesthesia, he condemns routine methods and emphasizes the necessity of considering the individual patient. There is much valuable advice in the chapters on pre- and post-operative treatment, effects of temperature and moisture on post-operative cases, etc.

The newer anesthetic agents, such as ethanesal and ethylene, are discussed briefly, and a conservative policy as to their adoption advocated.

In all respects it is a valuable handbook for those interested in anesthesiology.

M. E. B.

Modern Urology. In original contributions by American authors. Edited by Hugh Cabot. 2 vols. 2nd ed. Illustrated. Philadelphia and New York: Lea & Febiger. 1924. Price, \$18.

This is undoubtedly the best work published on urology in any language, and the thirty-eight monographs have been so correlated that it is not only a reference book for the specialist, but is an ideal text-book for students or the general practitioner.

In the five years that have elapsed since the first edition there have been many advances in the field of urology, and this necessitated a revision. Death has claimed two of the original contributors, Drs. Walter J. Dodd and Paul Pilcher. The chapter written by the former on "The Roentgenology of the Urinary Tract" has been revised by Dr. Preston M. Hickley, while Dr. Pilcher's section on "Prostatic Obstruction" is well handled by Dr. James A. Gardner. The seven-page article of Dr. Edwin Beer on "Tumors of the Testicle" has been replaced with a very complete twenty-nine page chapter by Dr. Frank Hinman. The delightful introductory historical sketch from the pen of Dr. Francis S. Watson has been omitted from this edition because of lack of space.

Most of the articles have been carefully revised and more complete bibliographies attached. However, the sections on anatomy and physiology have not been changed, and are not in keeping with the high standard of the work. Judging from the dearth of bibliography, many of

them were originally prepared from text-books whose teachings are more or less vague and not in conformity with the findings of investigators of the past few decades.

The illustrations are better than before, since many of the poor photographs have been eliminated. The work is almost a monument to Max Brodel, as most of the drawings are the work of his pupils, W. P. Didusch alone furnishing eighty pictures in five articles. However, many standard text-book pictures are used and not credited to the sources. Another objectionable feature is the repeated duplication of long series of pictures in adjacent chapters.

The editor has on the whole kept the work well balanced, but there are a few glaring inconsistencies, such as allowing forty-three pages to be devoted to "Ureteral Stricture," while the all-important subject of "Genital Tuberculosis" is handled in a masterly manner in forty-six pages. Controversial subjects are satisfactorily disposed of by presenting the divergent views of authoritative students. In one chapter two references occur to articles not yet published by the author and his colleagues. The work is marred by typographical errors, such as omitting from Volume I the list of contributors (staff appointments), leaving incomplete the last sentence on page 803 (Volume I) by omitting three lines and placing Plate V (Volume II) in the wrong chapter and opposite page 446, instead of page 476.

Among other new material we find descriptions of the tabetic bladder from the urological standpoint, syphilitic hypertrophy of the vulva, granuloma inguinale, non-venerereal genital ulcers, and an enlarged section on tertiary bladder syphilis. There has been added descriptions of the median bar punches, transplantation of ureters, elusive ulcer of the bladder, treatment of bilharziosis with tartar emetic and of chancroids by fulguration and copper sulphate, method of cultivating the gonococcus, etiology of diverticula of the bladder, and the results of varicocele operations, as shown by the World War statistics. The penoscrotal hypospadias operation of Bucknall, as described by Churchman is added, and for the cure of epispadias the Thiersch operation and Beck's operation have been replaced by the Young-Cantwell's technic. The few pages originally devoted to the use of radium in cancer of the prostate have been elaborated into a complete section, with bibliography, that is really a treatise.

This work deserves a place in every doctor's library along with Osler's Practice of Medicine and Howell's Physiology, and Dr. Cabot and his colleagues have earned the commendation of the entire medical profession

M. B. W.

Anesthesia. By James Tayloe Gwathmey, with collaborators on special subjects. Second revised edition. Illustrated. 799 pp. New York: Macmillan Company. 1924.

The second revised edition of Gwathmey's "Anesthesia" brings this valuable reference book up to date, by the elimination of the chapter on Electrical and Sequestration Anesthesia, and Mental Influence and Hypnosis, and by the addition of chapters on Intravenous Synergistic Anesthesia, Anesthesia During the World War, and Ethylene.

In commenting on ethylene, the author expresses his conviction that Luckhardt has indisputably established its place as an anesthetic agent, both safer and better than nitrous oxide. This opinion will need verification by the collected statistics of many anesthetists before being generally accepted.

Doubtless the omission of mention of the recent work of White of Boston on the carbon dioxide de-etherization method, the practical application of the researches of Henderson, Gatch and others, is due to the text having gone to print before White's article appeared.

The section on physiology and pharmacology of inhalation anesthesia entitles it to rank with Hewitt's work as authority on these subjects, and it will continue to be the standard text-book on anesthesia for surgeons, anesthetists, and students.

M. E. B.

The Biology of the Internal Secretions. By Francis X. Dercum, M. D., Ph. D., professor of nervous and mental diseases in the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia. 241 pages. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1924.

An interesting monograph, probably not intended and certainly not recommended to medical students or practitioners who hope to find within its pages text-

book matter relating to the diagnosis or treatment of endocrine diseases. The reader who enjoys philosophical speculation will be stimulated to cogitation and reflection by many novel and surprising theories that are developed and elaborated in an intriguing manner. Thus he may be somewhat startled by the conception that disturbances or arrests of embryonic mesenchyme with concomitant involvement of the lymphatic system and thymus underlie all "great endocrine pictures." An extraordinary position is accorded the thymus, and its synergistic and antagonistic relations with the other ductless glands are expounded with great clarity but dubious reliability. The ground is thus prepared for a discussion of "glandular imbalances" resulting in "under and over compensations," and since simple primitive lymphoid tissue is then supposed to proliferate, the path is open that is assumed to lead to hypertrophies, neoplasms and malignancies.

The author's extensive clinical experience in nervous and mental disease bespeaks a thoughtful consideration of his views on the interrelationship of endocrine factors ("the interplay of hormones") in heredity and in the functional neuroses and psychoses. Future investigators may substantiate some of Dercum's theories and pay tribute to his vision, but at present the edifice he has erected seems to tremble on slender evidence and rather shaky foundations. Even so, the book emanates from a thinker and merits careful perusal, which, moreover, is an agreeable task, as the author's style is pleasing and attractive.

H. L.

Diseases of the Chest, and the Principles of Physical Diagnosis. By George William Norris, A. B., M. D., and Henry R. M. Landis, A. B., M. D. Third edition, revised. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1924.

The third edition of Norris and Landis has been enlarged and brought up to date, something necessary even in a textbook on physical diagnosis, since this science advances with the rest of medicine. One noteworthy evidence of this revision is the discussion on page 261 of the newer ideas concerning the causation of the mitral stenotic murmur. References to important late original literature are given throughout, especially desirable for the student since the majority are in readily accessible journals in English. The same plan of correlating pathology and physical findings, and of emphasizing the physics of physical signs has been followed, of course, and for those engaged in teaching is the most valuable feature of the book.

The illustrating has been most generous and continues to be of the former excellent type. As in most textbooks, photographs of the female torso are considerably in evidence, and as usual are selected for their pulchritude rather than their pathology. At times this strikes one as being in rather questionable taste. The paper and typography naturally are of the highest class.

Could the authors only be persuaded to continue the work to cover the examination of the entire body, an absolutely ideal textbook of physical diagnosis would result—something sorely needed in the English language. As it is, Norris and Landis' constitutes the last word on the physical diagnosis of conditions of the heart and lungs.

L. H. B.

Two Lectures on Gastric and Duodenal Ulcer. A record of ten years' experience. By Sir Berkeley Moynihan. 48 pp. New York: William Wood and Co. 1923.

This is a paper-bound volume of forty-eight pages. Lecture I—"On Some Problems of Gastric and Duodenal Ulcer" was delivered before the Hunterian Society of London, January 29, 1923, and appeared in the British Medical Journal February 10, 1923. Lecture II—"On the Treatment of Duodenal Ulcer" was delivered before the Harveian Society of London, March 22, 1923, and appeared in the Lancet, Volume 1, 1923.

In these lectures which are well prepared and entertainingly written, the author reviews his experience during a period of ten years. Seven hundred and eighteen cases are